

American NEWS & VIEWS

A Daily Newsletter from Public Affairs, American Embassy

September 20, 2004

Text: President Bush to Call for Expanding Prosperity, Freedom in U.N. Address	1
Transcript: Secretary Powell Says Iraq Invasion Based on International Law.....	2
Text: Darfur Urgent Issue for U.S., Ambassador Danforth Says.....	6
U.S. to Propose Broad Middle East Initiative During U.N. Meetings	8
Fact Sheet: U.S. Plans to Promote Democracy Caucus at the United Nations.....	9
Text: Increased Screening for Explosives Begins at U.S. Airports.....	9
Text: U.S., India Announce Progress in Strategic Trade Talks.....	10

Text: President Bush to Call for Expanding Prosperity, Freedom in U.N. Address*In radio message, president cites AIDS, anti-poverty funding*

President Bush says that he will highlight proposals "to improve health, expand prosperity, and extend freedom" when he addresses the U.N. General Assembly next week.

In his weekly radio address on September 18, Bush said that the United States will "increase foreign aid to those governments that are serious about fighting corruption and improving education, health care, and economic opportunity for their people."

The United States is providing an "unprecedented" \$15 billion to combat HIV/AIDS; contributing to the global fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria; and launching initiatives in Africa to reduce hunger and expand educational opportunities, according to the president.

Bush said that more than 10 million Afghan citizens are registered to vote in Afghanistan and that nationwide elections in Iraq are scheduled for January.

"America and our allies will keep our commitments to the Afghan and Iraqi people," Bush said. "Our long-term security -- the safety of our children and grandchildren -- will be served when the broader Middle East is home to stable, democratic governments that fight terror."

Following is the text of President Bush's Radio Address to the Nation for September 18:

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Three years after the attacks of September the 11th, our nation continues to confront the threats to our security. We're acting to protect the homeland, to track and disrupt terror networks across the world, and to hold to account the sponsors of terror. We're staying on the offensive, striking the terrorists abroad so we do not have to face them here at home.

Americans also know that our long-term security requires a broader commitment. Our country is determined to spread hope and economic progress and freedom as the alternatives to hatreds, resentments, and terrorist violence. In hopeful societies men and women are far less likely to embrace murderous ideologies. And free governments will fight terrorists in their midst, instead of harboring them. We know that to create a safer world, we must build a better world. And we are acting.

This week, I will speak in New York to the United Nations General Assembly, and I will talk about the great possibilities of our time to improve health, expand prosperity and extend freedom in our world. America and many nations are taking a bold stand in the fight against HIV/AIDS. My emergency plan for AIDS relief will provide an unprecedented \$15 billion over five years to support the fight against the AIDS pandemic throughout the world, with the focus on the most afflicted countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and Asia. These funds are already at work, helping to prevent new infections, provide treatment and care for millions of victims.

We've also joined with other nations to create the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. In three years, the fund has raised \$5.6 billion in pledges and provided funding for projects in more than 90 countries. And we will persist in the effort until these diseases are defeated.

America and many other nations are also determined to turn the tide against global poverty by taking a new approach to economic development. It is now our policy to increase foreign aid to those governments that are serious about fighting corruption and improving education, health care, and economic opportunity for their people. Modern history teaches that honest governments that invest in their people and promote economic freedom can lift millions out of poverty and despair. And governments that truly serve their people deserve our help.

The health and well-being of developing nations also depend on the defeat of hunger and illiteracy. We have launched an initiative to end hunger in Africa by teaching modern farming techniques and providing drought-resistant crops to farmers on that continent. And through our Africa Education Initiative, we're training teachers, distributing textbooks, and encouraging more school enrollment.

America and many nations are also building a better world by standing with the liberated peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan, as they move toward democracy. More than 10 million Afghan citizens have now registered to vote in next month's election. Iraq is approaching free elections in January. Terrorist enemies are trying to stop the progress of both those countries, and their violent and merciless attacks may increase as elections draw near. But all the world can be certain: America and our allies will keep our commitments to the Afghan and Iraqi people. Our long-term security -- the safety of our children and grandchildren -- will be served when the broader Middle East is home to stable, democratic governments that fight terror.

At the United Nations this week, I will make some additional proposals to expand prosperity and accelerate the march of freedom in our world. Never in the history of the United Nations have we faced so many opportunities to create a safer world by building a better world. For the sake of our common security, and for the sake of our common values, the international community must rise to this historic moment. And the United States is prepared to lead.

Thank you for listening.

*EPF502 09/17/2004

Transcript: Secretary Powell Says Iraq Invasion Based on International Law

(Says Saddam Hussein did have intention to produce WMD)

Secretary of State Colin Powell says the invasion of Iraq was necessary and was based on international law.

Powell told news interviewer September 17 that U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan's observation that the war in Iraq was illegal because it violated the U.N.'s charter was incorrect.

Powell said the U.N. does a lot of good work, but when it comes to a crisis it is difficult "to get everybody on the same sheet of music."

Asked about French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's observation that the war in Iraq was illegitimate, Powell said during an interview on Fox News that there are always these kinds of disagreements. "We understand that the French characterized it as illegitimate, but the French are wrong, too," he said. When disagreements occur, leaders have to search for areas of agreement and build on them, he said.

Former U.N. weapons inspector Charles Duelfer is scheduled to issue a report later in September on what happened to Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. His effort will seek "to get to the truth," Powell said.

The former Iraqi president clearly had the intention of producing such weapons, Powell said, and he would have had have built up his weapons stockpile "if he had ever broken free of U.N. sanctions or international oversight."

Asked to reflect on intelligence provided about Iraq's arsenal, Powell said: "My instinct right now says that the sources that we had were mistaken with respect to the existence of any significant stockpiles. We haven't found

any and I haven't seen a persuasive case that said they've all been buried or they all went to another country."

But Saddam Hussein did maintain a dual-use production capacity that provided him with the possibility to produce biological and chemical weapons, he said. The truth is that "Saddam Hussein never changed his spots," Powell said.

Powell said President Bush responded by refusing to allow the dictator to remain in office posing a threat to his own citizens, the region or the world.

Asked about media reports on the classified National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq that was issued in July, Powell said it reflects "a very sober appraisal of the situation."

Asked about attempts by the Iraqi insurgents to foment chaos as the time of Iraqi elections draws nearer, he said it was always assumed that as the end of the year approached "they would do everything they could to demonstrate that we weren't capable of securing the country and the new government was not capable."

Powell was also asked about a new State Department report saying that freedom of religion does not exist in Saudi Arabia. While Saudi Arabia is and remains a close U.S. ally, the secretary said, religious freedom does not exist there and the Saudis "would not say to you that there is."

He was also asked about Russia's recent political reaction to a series of high-profile terrorist incidents. While expressing full understanding of Russia's outrage, Powell also said it is important for that country to maintain balance within its political structure. He said Russia must remain on the correct political path and not do anything to upset the political balance there.

Following are excerpts from the transcript of Powell's interview:

MR. HANNITY: Thanks for being here. All right, Kofi Annan has spoken out again, said the war in Iraq was illegal and violated the U.N. Charter. Your reaction?

SECRETARY POWELL: My reaction is that the Secretary General was incorrect. We believe that the war was necessary and it rested on sound principles of international law. We have made our case and we have, in our words, moved forward directly with a spirited defense of our position, and of course, it's a position held by Australia and the United Kingdom and all the other members of the coalition.

I spoke with the Secretary General and we know that we have different views on this, but our view is clear and our view is based on international law.

MR. HANNITY: [Defense Secretary] Don Rumsfeld actually went on record and said, "48 days before an election, this reeks of political interference." Do you agree with that?

SECRETARY POWELL: Not really. I read the transcript very, very carefully. And the Secretary General was in an interview situation and he was not trying to get into our politics or, frankly, to make news. It was just that he got into the interview situation and said what he said, and he and I have had good conversations since then.

MR. HANNITY: The Prime Minister of Australia used the word, "paralyzed" to describe the United Nations. You have 17 resolutions, 12 years, you have 1441. Most of these resolutions talk about serious consequences, but yet they were unwilling to follow through on those consequences. Is -- can people be intellectually honest and use the word "paralyzed," that the U.N. has lost its effectiveness, that it's been rendered impotent? Political, perhaps?

SECRETARY POWELL: I don't think that I would say it's impotent. I mean, the U.N. does a lot of good things. But dealing with a crisis like this, it tends not to do it that well because it's hard to get everybody on the same sheet of music.

In this case, however, and to show you how it is grounded in international law, we went to the United Nations and got a unanimous resolution, 1441. And that resolution said that Iraq was in material breach, remained in material breach, has not gotten out of material breach, and any further acts that constituted material breach should lead to serious consequences.

Well, there were further acts: False declarations, not cooperating in the way that they should, and that believes -- led us to believe it's time to impose serious consequences. And when the Security Council was not prepared to make such a judgment based on the original resolution, 1441, and all those years of resolutions, as you pointed out, Sean, the President boldly stepped forward, and with a like-minded coalition of Australia, the United Kingdom and many other nations, he took action and we are with one less dictator in the world. And a regime that filled mass graves and used weapons of mass destruction against its own people, against its own neighbors, that violated human rights and all of these terrible things, that regime is gone.

The remnants of that regime are trying to see if they can recreate it. And they won't be able to. We'll defeat the insurgency.

MR. HANNITY: Jacques Chirac, through his spokesman, he even weighed in on this and said, "We consider it illegitimate." How does that impact your job and the relationship that the United States has with its so-called ally, France?

SECRETARY POWELL: There are always these kinds of disagreements. We understand that the French characterized it as illegitimate, but the French are wrong, too. And what you have to do is find areas where there are agreement and build on those, where there are areas of disagreement, see if you can work your way through. But there always will be points at which you can't get agreement with another party, and then you have to do what you think is right and what is in the best interest of the American people and our security and the security of the international order; and that's exactly what President Bush did last year.

MR. HANNITY: Bill Gertz has just come out with a new book, "Treachery: How America's Friends and Foes Are Secretly Arming Our Enemies." In the book, he chronicles how even after the war began, allies like France were dealing arms and the like with Iraq, serious allegations that China -- Iraq's top military officer provided Baghdad with technical assistance and other assistance. Are you aware of -- have you been following this?

SECRETARY POWELL: There are many reports, but I can't comment on -- I haven't read Bill's book, so I can't comment on any specifics within the book.

MR. HANNITY: Do you have any knowledge that any of our allies were involved in any effort to help Iraq at a time that we were in this conflict with them?

SECRETARY POWELL: I can't talk about it because I'm not familiar with anything that happened after the war began. But, of course, before the war began, there was a lot of contact with the people in Iraq and nations that were friends and allies of ours, both within the context of the Oil-for-Food program, perhaps out of the context of the Oil-for-Food program. And that's what people have to look at now, while we're taking a look, a very intense look, at how the Oil-for-Food program was used. And we know that there was corruption in that program. We know that there were some terrible things that have happened under the umbrella of that program, and that's what we have to look at, and let that take us wherever it does. And if it turns out

that some of our allies were behaving in a way that was improper, we have to see that and we have to know that.

MR. HANNITY: I guess the one remaining question, you have expressed doubts recently about whether or not weapons of mass destruction would ever be found. And I think you're probably right based on where we are at this particular point in time. Is it more likely that our intelligence was wrong, that they didn't exist? Is it more likely that perhaps they were hidden and are still hidden? Or is it even more likely that perhaps they were moved to a country like Syria?

SECRETARY POWELL: I can't exclude any of those possibilities, but if I had to put my money on something, I would say that Saddam Hussein clearly had the intention of having such weapons, he had the capability of having such weapons, and if he had ever broken free of U.N. sanctions or international oversight, he would have built up stockpiles.

The weakness in the case that we presented is we haven't found the stockpiles we thought existed. Now, we'll just have to wait to see what Mr. Duelfer will [say] in the effort to get to the truth of all this.

MR. HANNITY: Right.

SECRETARY POWELL: My instinct right now says that the sources that we had were mistaken with respect to the existence of any significant stockpiles. We haven't found any and I haven't seen a persuasive case that said they've all been buried or they all went to another country. But that's what we've got several hundred people examining under the leadership of Charlie Duelfer.

MR. HANNITY: Let's talk about Mr. Duelfer. The New York Times reports today that the Iraqi Survey Group, that Saddam had clear intent, they reported, to in fact produce biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons if the U.N. sanctions were lifted. There was no evidence they had a large-scale program to -- that it was going on at the time of invasion, but they definitely had the plan. Is there some validation there?

SECRETARY POWELL: There is no question about this and I haven't seen the Duelfer report yet. But even without that report, I have always known, and there is no debate within the intelligence community that he had the intention. He was keeping in place the dual-use capabilities that would give him a breakout possibility with biological and chemical weapons, and that he kept intact the intellectual wherewithal to go back to nuclear weapons if he was ever free of all that. Why would anybody assume

that Saddam Hussein with his track record, his money and his capability, once relieved of the pressure of international sanctions would not go back to this behavior -- behavior will have been rewarded by the international community, all of those years of resolutions and suddenly the international community says, "Well, never mind."

MR. HANNITY: Yeah. In the report, according to, again, the Times, in today's edition, specifically discusses these clandestine labs that were operated by the Iraqi intelligence services and which could have produced these lethal weapons. Have the American people heard too little about them? Because they were discovered. This is what --

SECRETARY POWELL: They had not gotten that much attention and I think that if the New York Times report is accurate and Charlie lays out all of this information in his report, the world will see the truth. And the truth of the matter is that Saddam Hussein never changed his spots. A man who gassed 5,000 people on a Friday morning in 1988 is the same man we took out of power last year. He never changed his spots. He had the intention. He had these mini-laboratories that were humming away. He was keeping intact the infrastructure. Why? To make pesticides later, or to make chemical weapons and biological weapons later? What would you put your money on?

The President refused to put his money on the benign characterization of these activities. He refused to answer some of the basic questions put to him by the inspectors, by the U.N., what happened to the material we know you had years ago? What happened to the gaps in information that the U.N. inspectors came upon years ago? He refused to answer. So what should the international community do, say, well, let's just forget about it, he doesn't want to answer the test?

No, the President refused to put the American people at that risk, the region at that risk, and the world at the risk.

MR. HANNITY: Do you think Iraqi insurgents would try -- we keep hearing -- we're in an election cycle -- we keep hearing, we saw what happened in Spain where the terrorists tried to impact an election, and many would argue they did. Will Iraqi insurgents on their end try and create maximum amount of chaos to perhaps potentially impact the election?

SECRETARY POWELL: We have always assumed that once the transfer of authority took place and the Iraqi interim government was sovereign again and they were working toward an election at the end of the year, with our election coming along that timeline in early November, of course, that they would do everything they could to

demonstrate that we weren't capable of securing the country and the new government was not capable. And that's what they're doing now. That's why the violence has gone up. And what you are seeing in response are Iraqi leaders who are courageous, who are stepping forward, putting themselves at risk, young men who are stepping forward to being police officers and members of the army, and you're seeing coalition troops now starting to respond much more aggressively than they might have in recent weeks.

MR. HANNITY: National Intelligence Estimate over the summer that our government or senior analysts examining things here, that this was tending and trending towards a civil war. They described it in pessimistic terms. You've read this report. Do you disagree with that?

SECRETARY POWELL: I've read this report and I wouldn't characterize it quite that way, and I don't remember any reference to civil war. What it was was a very sober assessment of the challenges that lay ahead. And that's what intelligence estimates are supposed to do. They're not supposed to tell you about all of the great things that have happened and you don't have to worry about anymore. What you want the intelligence community to do is point out the challenges and problems you're facing, the things you'd better be worrying about. That's what this is. It's a very sober appraisal of the situation.

MR. HANNITY: The U.S. State Department for the first time labeled Saudi Arabia one of the world's worst violators of religious freedom, quote, the report says, "Freedom of religion does not exist in Saudi Arabia," and they're a close ally.

SECRETARY POWELL: It does not, and they are a close ally, and they've been a friend to the United States for many years and we have cooperated with them in so many ways over the years and they have supported us in so many ways. But the reality is that there is not freedom of religion in Saudi Arabia and they would not say to you that there is. It is an Islam -- an Islamic country, and it does not tolerate other expressions of religious freedom, and for the first time, we, in conversations with the Saudis, said we have to designate you in a category that we have in the law, a Country of Particular Concern, and I had long talks with my Saudi friends before I designated them.

MR. HANNITY: And their reaction?

SECRETARY POWELL: Well, they're not happy being designated but they recognize the reality of the situation, and hopefully with this sort of spotlight, this sort of

pressure, they will keep moving down this rather (inaudible) path of reform that they are on.

MR. HANNITY: Let's talk about Vladimir Putin for a minute here and his proposed political changes, and you said it was a pullback -- and the President said -- from democratic reforms. Between that and what happened in Russia with these school kids in particular, and their, basically, adoption, at least publicly, of the Bush doctrine, do you put the two together, as why he is proposing that, and what do you say to him?

SECRETARY POWELL: What we have said to the Russians and both the President and I, as you noticed, Sean, made statements earlier this week. We fully understand the outrage that exists in Russia over what happened. It was their 9/11. Over 300 children and others killed, two airplanes blown out of the sky, subway entrance blown out. So they were shocked and they have to go after these murderers, go after these terrorists, just as we have gone after the terrorists that were striking us. And we supported them. And we would suggest that they do nothing less than deal with these murderers, not negotiate with them.

But at the same time, you have to keep a balance in your society in the political structure and Russia has been looming down the path of solid democratic reform over the last 12 or so years, since the end of the Cold War, and some of the steps that President Putin has taken in recent days causes some concern. We want to make sure that Russia, which is a good friend of ours, cooperates, in so many ways, keep on the right path and not unbalance the situation.

MR. HANNITY: How has he reacted?

SECRETARY POWELL: Well, they don't -- they'd rather not be guided in this manner or to get advice in this matter, but friends give to other friends advice from time to time and make their concerns known.

MR. HANNITY: Let me ask you this question. I am not going to bring you into politics, though I'd love to, but maybe one day we'll have that discussion. We're 46 days out of an election. Throughout the last year, the President that you serve -- and you're always quick to say, "I serve at the pleasure of the President," -- has been called by the leaders of his opposition party repeatedly a liar, and said he concocted a war for political gain. People who laid out the case that you laid out about WMD in Iraq in 2003, have now totally shifted their position on it. How dangerous is that? What impact does that have on your ability to do your job and the ability of the President of the United States to wage a war, engage in a battle against terrorism?

SECRETARY POWELL: It is a heated political season and I've been through many such seasons in the course of my --

MR. HANNITY: Maybe more, too, in the future.

SECRETARY POWELL: Well, who knows. Nice try.

MR. HANNITY: I'll try. I'll try.

SECRETARY POWELL: And you expect these kinds of charges to go flying back and forth. But on the 2nd of November, the American people will render the only judgment that counts. They will offer the only opinion that makes any difference, whatsoever, and they will speak.

MR. HANNITY: But is that reckless?

SECRETARY POWELL: What they will see is, I think, that President Bush has dealt with the challenges that this nation has faced. He refused to allow a dictator like Saddam Hussein to continue in office, a threat to his own people, the region, the world. He has taken action to help the world with his Millennium Challenge Account funding for developing nations, with what he has done with HIV/AIDS in the government to go after that. We're moving weapons of mass destruction from Libya, pressuring the international community to do something about North Korea and Iran. The President has spoken clearly and directly. Sometimes it annoys people that he speaks so clearly and directly, but he's not going to stop. And all of these charges that fly back and forth, this is what's called American democracy and all those charges will be resolved, dealt with and will be history on the evening of the 2nd of November, as the American people offer the only judgment that counts.

MR. HANNITY: And then you'll serve at the pleasure of the President in the second term?

SECRETARY POWELL: It's so nice seeing you, Sean.

MR. HANNITY: Good to see you, Secretary Powell. Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

Text: Darfur Urgent Issue for U.S., Ambassador Danforth Says

Amb. Danforth's U.N. Security Council remarks

U.S. President George Bush sent a message to the Security Council September 18 saying that "Darfur is a catastrophe the council should address on an urgent basis," U.S. Ambassador John Danforth said.

In remarks to an open council meeting, Danforth said that the crisis in the region is "uniquely grave in two respects. " "First, it is the largest humanitarian disaster in the world today," he pointed out.

"Second, the disaster in Darfur is entirely man-made. Unlike natural disasters such as hurricanes and droughts, the tragedy in Darfur was entirely avoidable. It was fabricated by a government as an overreaction to a rebellion; a government intent on revenge, intent on persecution, intent on breaking the spirit of an entire people," said Danforth, who is the chief U.S. envoy to the United Nations.

The Security Council adopted a U.S. drafted resolution on Darfur by a vote of 11 to 0 with 4 abstentions. It endorses and expansion of the African Union mission in the region, calls for a genocide investigation, and urges the international community to fund the humanitarian aid programs to the more than 1.2 million people in need. It also threatens sanctions if Khartoum doesn't comply with the requirements of the resolution as well as an earlier one passed on July 30.

Following is the text of the ambassador's remarks:

September 18, 2004

Mr. President,

Since he appointed me his Special Envoy more than three years ago, I have had numerous discussions with President Bush on the subject of Sudan. Yesterday afternoon he phoned me to ask that I convey his strongly held views on the resolution now before the Security Council.

He said that Darfur is a catastrophe the Council should address on an urgent basis.

He underscored the importance of the expanded mission of the African Union, which he asked us to support by this resolution and logistically.

He asked that the international community fulfill its commitments to humanitarian assistance for the people of Darfur.

He said that, in the long run, security in Darfur depends on successful peace talks in Abuja and on expeditious completion of the Naivasha negotiations.

In short, President Bush asked me to convey his strong support for what we are doing this afternoon.

Mr. President, this resolution has a threefold purpose. First, it throws the full weight of the Council behind the African Union in undertaking an increased mission in Darfur. It calls on the international community fully to support the African Union and the efforts of President Obasanjo. Second, it calls for the completion on an urgent basis of the Naivasha and Abuja negotiations as essential to creating a peaceful, prosperous, united Sudan. Third, it calls on the international community to fulfill - urgently - its pledges of humanitarian assistance to the people of Darfur.

We act today, because the Government of Sudan has failed to fully comply with our previous Resolution 1556, adopted on July 30. Today's Resolution demands that the Government of Sudan meet in practice its verbal commitment to accept an increased number of African Union monitors. The Resolution also states that if the Government of Sudan continues to persecute its people or does not cooperate fully with the African Union, the Council will indeed have to consider sanctions against it and individuals responsible for this disaster.

The Resolution is the product of a negotiating process. It reflects the wishes of some delegations to recognize that the Government of Sudan has met some of its commitments with regard to access for humanitarian assistance. But no one should be under the slightest illusion as to why the Government of Sudan has met even this commitment. It did so because of intense pressure from the international community and it did so with great reluctance and long delays that thwarted an early, effective humanitarian response.

Mr. President, the crisis in Darfur is uniquely grave in two respects. First, it is the largest humanitarian disaster in the world today-having claimed over 50,000 lives, having displaced over 1.2 million people, and having resulted in the rape and humiliation of hundreds of thousands more. Over 2.2 million people have been victimized in one way or another by the actions of the Sudanese government. And I note with concern that a recent UNICEF report warns that the humanitarian crisis will likely worsen in the coming weeks.

Second, the disaster in Darfur is entirely man-made. Unlike natural disasters such as hurricanes and droughts, the tragedy in Darfur was entirely avoidable. It was fabricated by a government as an overreaction to a rebellion; a government intent on revenge, intent on persecution, intent on breaking the spirit of an entire people.

Since the Security Council passed Resolution 1556 on July 30, the violence in Darfur has continued. The Secretary General's Special Representative, Mr. Pronk, reported that armed militias continue to threaten civilians. Mr. Pronk reported that, during the second half of August, militias attacked villages in the Yassin area, killing more than 50 people. He reported that some villages were attacked three or four times; some were looted, others completely destroyed. He also described reports of regular attacks on villages in Western Darfur, including Nertiti and Masteria. He reported continuing allegations of theft and sexual attacks throughout the region; he noted that the government had denied humanitarian workers access to the Kalma camp; and he criticized the government for refusing to identify the perpetrators of these crimes by name. Finally, Mr. Pronk discussed the deeply rooted fear of the people of Darfur toward the government of Sudan and its police forces. With more than 400 villages destroyed to date, such fears are more than justified.

Norwegian State Secretary Helgesen visited Sudan and Chad from September 2 to September 6 and came to similar conclusions. Members of the African Union Cease-Fire Commission informed him that Sudanese helicopters and bombers had been involved in several recent attacks on villages in Darfur. On one occasion, the Norwegian delegation witnessed an armed Sudanese Government MI 24 helicopter take off from El Fasher. Later the delegation received reports that this helicopter likely had been involved in an attack on a village.

Mr. Pronk's conclusions, and those of Mr. Helgesen, are consistent with the results of a recent survey taken by the U.S. State Department. In compiling its data, State Department officials interviewed 1,136 randomly selected refugees in 19 locations in eastern Chad. Sixty one percent (61%) had witnessed the killing of a family member. Four fifths had witnessed the destruction of their homes. Over and over again, the interviewers heard the same story: Government aircraft start the attacks by bombing villages; Government soldiers arrive in trucks followed by janjaweed on horseback; they surround and then enter the villages--guns blazing; they shoot and bomb fleeing villagers; they loot and destroy the villages, often shouting racial epithets and curses as they proceed with their acts of destruction. They leave behind them nothing but devastation and death. And, importantly, nine in ten of the refugees said they had

witnessed no rebel activity in the areas so mercilessly attacked by the government and the jinjaweed. These are indiscriminate acts of violence and terror. Secretary of State Powell recently told Congress that this evidence leads the United States to conclude that the Government of Sudan may be condoning and perpetrating genocide. In that light, we expect the Government of Sudan immediately to facilitate an increased AU presence in Darfur and to comply with the other provisions of today's resolution. We note the letter from Sudan's Permanent Representative, promising his government's full cooperation with the African Union. We note further that previous promises of the Government of Sudan have been made on paper, but not honored in practice.

The Government of Sudan has the responsibility to end the tragedy in Darfur. We expect it to do so.

Thank you, Mr. President.

*EPF504 09/17/2004

U.S. to Propose Broad Middle East Initiative During U.N. Meetings

(Effort aims to improve region's living standard, State's Larson says)

By Kathryn McConnell, Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The United States, backed by other major industrialized nations, will call for a broad multilateral initiative to help countries in the Middle East during the current U.N. General Assembly meeting, says Under Secretary of State Alan Larson.

The initiative, to be called the Forum for the Future, will be proposed in meetings with U.N. member foreign ministers and representatives of businesses and civil society September 22-24, Larson said in an interview in Washington aired September 17 by the Arabic-language Radio Sawa and Alhurra television station. The 59th session of U.N. General Assembly began September 14 in New York.

The proposal to be introduced by the United States on behalf of the Group of 8 (G8) nations will call for an ongoing public-private forum to guide the development of programs and strategies to help countries in the Middle East provide a better quality of life for their citizens, Larson said.

The meetings in New York "are intended to be the beginning of a process that can greatly improve the lives of

ordinary people in the Middle East," Larson said. They are intended to be the "beginning of a partnership" that will focus on the things that matter the most to people, such as good education opportunities, strong government institutions and good job opportunities, he said.

The effort will be a follow-up action to a pledge made by the G8 at its annual summit in June to help countries in the Middle East achieve economic growth and political reforms, Larson said. The United States currently chairs the G8, which includes Canada, France, Germany Italy, Japan, Russia and the United Kingdom.

Larson said since the June meeting at Sea Island, Georgia, \$50 million of a targeted \$100 million has been raised to support an International Finance Corporation (IFC) regional facility to promote small business development. The IFC, part of the World Bank, supports business development and investment in emerging economies.

The under secretary said people in the Middle East have expressed strong interest in adopting governmental reforms that will result in greater ease in doing business in the region and create jobs. He said already efforts are underway in the region to provide more opportunities for business growth.

For instance, he said, Jordan and Yemen have provided leadership in developing microfinance programs. Other examples are Morocco and Bahrain, which have developed initiatives to provide more business education and training to entrepreneurs, he said.

In other Middle East efforts, Larson said, the United States is working with Saudi Arabia to help the country gain entry to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Accession into the world trade system would help the country diversify its exports and provide more jobs to its rising generation of young workers, he said.

The United States also is leading an effort to help the Palestinian Authority institutionalize economic reforms that will allow Palestinians to have more "economic vitality" and access to better services such as water and electricity, Larson said.

Another U.S. Middle East focus is to ensure the flow of aid money to Iraq and that funds are being used effectively, he said.

The under secretary pointed to a follow-up donors conference to be held in October in Tokyo that will discuss how to accelerate the Iraq reconstruction money pledged at an Iraq donors conference in Madrid in 2003.

The United States and other G8 members in June also agreed to enter into negotiations later in 2004 on a sustainable debt reduction plan for Iraq that would be based on an International Monetary Fund (IMF) assessment, Larson said.

*EPF506 09/17/2004

Fact Sheet: U.S. Plans to Promote Democracy Caucus at the United Nations

(This is a U.S. priority for the 59th U.N. General Assembly)

The following is one of a series of seven fact sheets describing U.S. goals at the 59th session of the United Nations General Assembly:

"Lasting peace is gained as justice and democracy advance."

-- President George W. Bush, November 19, 2003

"When the United Nations can truly call itself a community of democracies, the Charter's noble ideals of protecting human rights and promoting 'social progress in larger freedoms' will have been brought much closer. When the founders of the United Nations met in San Francisco more than half a century ago, they knew that no foundation of peace would be sturdier than democratic government."

-- U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, June 27, 2000

A Democracy Caucus

Democratic nations share a common commitment to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. The United States believes that democratic nations must work more closely together in order to help the United Nations live up to its founding principles. Through the formation of a Democracy Caucus at the United Nations -- a network of democratic nations working together -- the U.S. can advance the work of the U.N. in areas such as human rights, good governance, and the rule of law.

A Democracy Caucus is not intended to supplant long-standing regional or other groupings, but rather to provide an added mechanism for like-minded democratic nations to cooperate. It will serve as a supplementary network that countries use to cooperate on resolutions and alternatives.

In the Warsaw Declaration of June 27, 2000, more than 100 nations acknowledged the interdependence between peace, development, human rights, and democracy. This Community of Democracies, whose members meet

standards set out in the Warsaw Declaration, has formed the basis of a Democracy Caucus in the U.N.

By advancing democracy, the caucus will in turn advance the U.N.'s basic aims of preserving peace, expanding economic development, and securing human rights. The Democracy Caucus is essential to creating an international environment in which democracy can flourish. The United States will work with other nations based on the idea that reinforcing democratic institutions should be the goal of every U.N. program.

Cooperation on U.N. Resolutions

U.N. resolutions must better reflect internationally accepted human rights standards and democratic principles. A Democracy Caucus can collaborate in drafting, introducing, and supporting the most vital human rights resolutions. Working together, democracies can help advance rule of law norms internationally and can better establish human rights standards.

Increased Democratic Participation

The United States hopes to work with a Democracy Caucus to ensure that democratic nations are encouraged to become strong and active participants in U.N. programs, such as the United Nations Development Program, and other U.N. bodies such as the Commission on Human Rights, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Office (ILO), and other U.N. programs that contribute to the rule of law and basic freedoms.

*EPF507 09/17/2004

Text: Increased Screening for Explosives Begins at U.S. Airports

(TSA announces additional passenger scrutiny procedures)

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has announced that it will intensify screening air passengers for explosives at U.S. airports.

Beginning the week of September 19, airport screeners will have more latitude to refer travelers for enhanced secondary screening, TSA said in a September 16 news release. In addition, all passengers will be required to remove outer coats for X-ray before going through metal detectors, it said.

The agency in the Department of Homeland Security said it also is testing at several airports new explosives-detection technologies.

Following is the text of the news release:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

September 16, 2004

TSA Increases Level of Electronic and Manual Explosives Searches at U.S. Airports

New policy adds trace detectors to passenger search routine and expands use of physical pat-downs

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) today announced new passenger screening procedures that will increase the use of explosives trace detectors, expand the use of manual pat-down searches, and give screeners more latitude to refer individuals to secondary screening. This move is in line with our commitment to constantly review screening procedures to ensure our measures are targeted to counter potential threats.

The enhancements are designed to strengthen checkpoint screening of passengers and carry-on baggage and are in line with a recent recommendation of the 9/11 Commission Report that all passengers selected for secondary screening be checked for explosives. Passengers must continue to go through metal detectors and put their carry-on items through the X-ray; the extra measures will be applied to those persons referred to secondary screening.

Beginning next week, the new protocol will also require all passengers to remove outer coats and jackets for X-ray before proceeding through the metal detectors. Included are suit and sport coats, athletic warm-up jackets and blazers.

The new measures authorize pat-down searches of passengers if warranted, based on visual observations. These limited searches will be conducted as part of the secondary screening process.

Since December 31, 2002, 100 percent of baggage checked at the nation's 450 commercial airports has been screened for explosives and other harmful materials before being loaded onto a plane.

Working with airlines and aviation authorities, TSA is testing and evaluating new technologies including portals and document scanners that will detect traces of explosive particles on passengers.

Currently, five airports are testing the portals at passenger security checkpoints. This technology subjects passengers to puffs of air, which are collected and analyzed to determine if explosives residues are present. The pilot programs will help determine whether the trace detection technology is appropriate for use within an airport environment.

Text: U.S., India Announce Progress in Strategic Trade Talks

Initiative targets trade in energy, space and high-tech industries

The United States and India have announced important progress towards the implementation of the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) initiative, which will expand U.S.-Indian trade and cooperation in civilian nuclear activities, civilian space programs and high-technology industries.

The first phase of discussions on the NSSP has allowed the United States to address security measures with regard to proliferation issues and enabled U.S. officials to ensure that the technology trade complies with U.S. export controls, according to a September 17 State Department press statement.

"Implementation of the NSSP will lead to significant economic benefits for both countries and improve regional and global security," the statement said.

The United States and India launched the NSSP in January 2004. According to the statement, this most recent progress is only the first step in transforming the U.S.-Indian strategic trade partnership under the initiative.

Following is the text of a Joint Statement issued by the United States and India on September 17, 2004.

The United States and India announced today major progress in the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) initiative. Implementation of the NSSP will lead to significant economic benefits for both countries and improve regional and global security.

In January 2004, the United States and India agreed to expand cooperation in three specific areas: civilian nuclear activities, civilian space programs, and high-technology trade. In addition, the two countries agreed to expand our dialogue on missile defense. These areas of cooperation are designed to progress through a series of reciprocal steps that build on each other.

Since January, the two governments have worked closely together to conclude Phase One of the NSSP. This has included implementation of measures to address proliferation concerns and to ensure compliance with U.S. export controls.

These efforts have enabled the United States to make modifications to U.S. export licensing policies that will foster cooperation in commercial space programs and permit certain exports to power plants at safeguarded nuclear facilities. These modifications, including removing the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Headquarters from the Department of Commerce Entity List, are fully consistent with U.S. Government nonproliferation laws, obligations, and objectives.

The United States and India will continue to move forward under the NSSP, and have a joint implementation group for this purpose. The progress announced today is only the first phase in this important effort, which is a significant part of transforming our strategic relationship.

(Preceding items distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)